THE
Theatrical Observer;
AND
Daily Bills of the Play.

"Nothing extenuate, nor set down aught in malice."—*Othello.*

No. 5709. *Wednesday, April* 8, 1840. *Price* 1*d.*

"The Play's the thing."—Ask for *Thomas's Observer.*

HAY-MARKET THEATRE.

YESTERDAY evening the Play of *Richelieu*, *His Last Legs*, and *The Waterman*, were performed for the benefit of a charitable institution.

COVENT GARDEN THEATRE.

SHAKSPEARE'S *Much ado about Nothing* was revived here last night, Charles Kemble playing *Benedick*, and Mrs. Nisbett, *Beatrice*. These two principal comic characters of the piece, are both essences in their kind. *Benedick's* character as a woman-hater is admirably supported, and his conversion to matrimony is no less happily effected by the pretended story of *Beatrice's* love for him. It is hard to say which of the two scenes is the best, that of the trick which is thus practised on *Benedick*, or that in which *Beatrice* is prevailed on, to take pity on him, by overbearing her cousin and her maid declare, (which they do on purpose) that he is dying of love for her. There is something delightfully picturesque in the manner in which *Beatrice* is described as coming to hear the plot, which is contrived against herself. *Benedick* is a professed and staunch enemy to marriage, and gives every plausible reason for the faith that is in him, and as to *Beatrice*, she persecutes him all day with her jests, she not only turns him, but all other things into jest, and is proof against every thing serious. These were happy materials for Shakspeare to work on, and he has made a happy use of them. Mr. Kemble played *Benedick* with all his wonted fire. He maintained his "merry war," with his fair enemy with a graceful and good humored playfulness, and threw into the character that "strain of honor," that high spirit, which makes *Benedick* interesting as well as whimsical. He was peculiarly happy in the manner in which he gave vent to the "thick coming fancies" which crowd upon the mind of *Benedick* when he is first amazed by the discovery that *Beatrice* loves him, and not less so, in the scene with *Beatrice*, after their mutual deception. Mrs. Nisbett played *Beatrice* most bewitchingly, her sarcasms were delivered with much point and meaning, and without any of that shrewishness of manner which is so difficult to avoid. In the sentence where, burning with resentment at the treatment of *Hero*, she stimulates her lover to "Kill *Claudio*," she drew down great applause. Miss Emmeline Montague made a very pretty and interesting *Hero*, and this was all that was required of her in the part. Farren's *Dogberry* was as rich a piece of low comedy as ever. The part of *Don Pedro* was well supported by Mr. Cooper, and Mr. G. Vandenhoff made a respectable *Don Claudio*. Altogether the Play was well acted, and went of with much spirit. At a quarter to 7 o'clock there was not standing

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room in the pit, nor indeed in any part of the house, every vacant seat in the dress circle and upper boxes having been previously secured, and the slips being filled at the first rush on the opening of the doors indeed so crowded was the Theatre, that many cried out lustily for a return of money, when Bartley stepped forward and said "I hope it has always been understood that when Covent Garden Theatre has been crowded to inconvenience, money is returned." This speech was tremendously applauded, and the piece proceeded without interruption.

The Queen and Prince Albert were present during the performance.

Fashionable Lounges.

To the Editor of The Theatrical Observer.

DEAR MR. EDITOR.—Just wish to say a word—beg pardon, but will you excuse me—I have to mention that I've arranged so as to rub shoulders with my friends and the fashionable world at one or other of the *Grand Lounges* about town :—

Monday, stroll'd to Madame TUSSAUD'S elegant Exhibition, Golden Corinthian Saloon, Baker-st., Portman Sq.—Just added to their unrivalled collection, the splendid full length figures of Her Majesty the Queen, in her Windsor uniform, and Prince Albert in his military costume, also the group of John Knox, reproving Mary Queen of Scots, consisting of Mary, Elizabeth, Henry VIII, Luther, Calvin, and Knox, in magnificent costumes.

Tuesday, I am to be found at the ROYAL DIORAMA, Regent's Park, admiring the two splendid Paintings by Le Chevalier Bouton, representing *The Coronation of Her Majesty Queen Victoria, in Westminster Abbey*, and the *Interior of the Church of Santa Croce*, at Florence, with all the effect of light and shade, from noon till midnight. This Exhibition is always crowded with fashionables.

Wednesday, pop into the COSMORAMA, 209, Regent Street, to view the new and splendid views now exhibiting—quite delighted. Much amused with the astonishing feats of *The Industrious Fleas*, which are also daily to be seen here.

In my way from the Theatre, drop into the *Harmonic Meeting*, held at EVANS'S Grand Hotel, King Street, Covent Garden,—quite delighted with the excellence of the singing, commences every evening at ten o'clock. When Mrs. P. is out of town, stay a week, and only pay a guinea for bed and breakfast. I'm always to be found on Saturday, at half-past five, at the Convivial Dinner held here.

Thursday pay a visit to the Somerset Gallery, 151, Strand, next door to Somerset House, to see the Royal Glass Working Exhibition, paid but sixpence for admittance, and a specimen given to the value. Highly amused by seeing the art of glass blowing spinning working and modelling, horses, dogs, stags, birds, &c,

"All good *spirits* come to my *Beck*," at his Dr. Johnson's Tavern, Bolt Court, Fleet Street—where you meet excellent company—capital fare at *fair* prices—delightful singing—(commences every evening at a quarter to nine,) cigars, billiards, good beds, and an enticing bill of fare,

Friday, drop into *The Florentine Anatomical Museum*, 27, Margaret Street, Regent Street, to admire the splendid Anatomical Figures of Venus & Adonis, modelled from nature, and as large as life,

On the same day, paid a delightful visit to *The Typorama*, Quadrant, Regent Street, a large and accurate modelled view of *The Underclif of the Isle of White*, constructed by L. L. B. Ibbotson, sq. For the lovers of Geology, a number of the fossils have been collected, and specimens of the remarkable plants, sea weeds, insects, &c. found in the neighbourhood.

Afterwards called at Emmett's, 27, Holborn Hill, to view his Novel Pen Maker by which any one can make a superior Pen in less than one minute—also his much improved Needle Threader, to enable Ladies, whose sight is impairad to thread their needles with the greatest ease—a most ingenious contrivance.

"Why are my eyes like Balfe's Opera of *The Maid of Artois?*" "Because they've got the *Light of Other Days* in them!" through trying the efficacy of GRIMSTONE'S Herbacious Eye Snuff—a 2s. 4d. & 1s. 3d. Canister restored my visual organs—quite a miracle—left off my spectacles.—Bought at 39, Broad-st, Bloomsbury—have a care to the inventor's signature—and that it is patronized by the Royal Family and authorized by her Majesty's Treasury on each canister.

On Saturday, I examine *Miss Linwood's* curious Needle Work, Leicester Square—just added other beautiful specimens of her art—But I intrude—beg pardon—Your's &c.—PAUL PRY.

Theatre Royal, Covent Garden.

This Evening, Colley Cibber's Comedy of The

Double Gallant!

Or, the Sick Lady's Cure.

Sir Soloman Sadlife,.....Mr W. FARREN,
Atall, Mr C. MATHEWS,
Careless.....MrG VANDENHOFF,
Clerimont, Mr J. VINING,
Mr Wilful, ... Mr F. MATTHEWS,
Sir Harry Atall....Mr GRANBY,
Captain Strutt, MrSELBY, Saunter, MrWIGAN,
Sir Squable Splithair,....Mr AYLIFFE,
Finder, MrW.H. PAYNE, Dr.Bolus, MrMorelli,
Rhubarb, Mr Ridgway, Supple, Mr Honner,
Lady Dainty, ...Mrs W. LACY,
Lady Sadlife,.....Mrs NISBETT,
Clarinda,..... Madame VESTRIS,
Slyvia, Mrs BROUGHAM, Wishwell, Mrs ORGER,
Situp, Mrs HUMBY, Sylvia's Maid MissJackson,

The Comedy will conclude with

A Dance by the Characters.

After which, (13th Time) a New Ballet Divertissement, called

Les Champs Elysees.

THE CHARACTERS BY

Master W. SMITH, (Pupil of Mr Oscar Byrne,)
Miss FAIRBROTHER, Miss RYALS,
Mrs GIBSON, Miss KENDAL, MissE.KENDAL
Mr C. J SMITH, Mr RIDGWAY, Mr GIBSON,

In the course of the Divertissement,

Mademoiselle MARIA LUIGIA BETTONI,

(Premiere Danseuse, from the Principal Theatres in Italy) and

Monsieur SAXONI,

(Premier Danseur, from the Imperial Theatre of Vienna) will make their first Appearance in a **NEW PAS DE DEUX,** Composed by M. Saxoni.

Mademoiselle BETTONI

Will also appear in the favoriteSpanishDance, **'LA CACHOUCHA.'**

To conclude with, the Drama of

SECRET SERVICE.

Fouché, ... (*Minister of Polie*) ..... Mr COOPER,
Desaunais, Mr DIDDEAR, Michel Perrin, MrW.FARREN,
Jules de Crussac, MrFITZJAMES, Bernard, Mr J. BLAND,
FirstClerk .MrHONNER, SecondClerk..MrHUGHES,
Servant....MrCONNELL, Porter....Mr IRELAND,
Therese, Miss LEE.

To-morrow, The Rivals, and The Beggar's Opera.

Theatre Royal, Haymarket.

This Evening, the Drama of The

Maid of Croissey.

Francis, Mr WALTER LACY,
Sergeant Austerlitz, - Mr WEBSTER,
Walter, Mr OXBERRY,
Villagers, Mr CLARK, Mr GREEN, Mr BISHOP,
Theresa, (First Time) Mrs E. YARNOLD,
Manette, (First Time) Miss P. HORTON,
In which character she will introduce a new song called
"The Switzer Maid."

After which, (5th Time) a New Farce, called

How to Pay the Rent.

Mr Miller, Mr STRICKLAND,
Morgan Rattler ..... Mr POWER,
Star-the-Glaze, Mr GREEN, Blowhard, Mr GOUGH,
Shooter.....Mr CLARK, Swell Billy....Mr CAULFIELD,
Snuffy, Mr SANTER, Porter, Mr BISHOP,
Mrs Conscience, Mrs W. CLIFFORD,
Kitty....Mrs F. MATTHEWS, Betty....Miss GROVE.

To be followed by, the new Farce, in 2 Acts, by Mr. Bernard, called

His Last Legs.

O'Callaghan, (a Man of Genius on his Last Legs,) Mr POWER,
Rivers, (a Country Gentleman) Mr STRICKLAND,
Charles Rivers, Mr WALTER LACY,
Dr. Banks, Mr GOUGH.
Mrs Montague..... Mrs W. CLIFFORD,
Julia Banks, Miss TRAVERS,
Betty .... Miss GROVE.

To conclude with, a Farce, in One Act, called

My Wife's Dentist

Sir John Beauville, Mr J. WEBSTER,
General Squadron, - Mr STRICKLAND,
David, Mr T. F. MATHEWS,
Dick Hazard, - Mr WRENCH,
Lady Letitia Beauville, Miss TRAVERS,
Rhoda, Mrs F. MATHEWS, Cicely, Miss GROVE.

To-morrow, Richelieu, How to pay the Rent, and Hobbs, Dobbs, & Stubbs.

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